

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8371

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, CA

SUBJ: USAF GOOSE BAY EXCELSIOR PENSION PLAN

1. EMBASER HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER FROM WILLIAM ROMPKEY, M.P., GRAN FALLS-WHITE BAY, LABRADOR DISTRICT, REGARDING THE EXCELSIOR PENSION PLAN:

2. QUOTE: AS YOU KNOW, I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE FATE OF THE EXCELSIOR PENSION PLAN AT BOOSE BAY IN THE EVENT OF A TOTAL OR EVEN PARTIAL WITHDRAWL OF AMERICAN FORCES THERE. EXCELSIOR HAS BEEN OPERATING THE PLAN SINCE 1964, AND BY NOW THERE MUST BE QUITE AN AMOUNT OF MONEY IN THE FUND FROM EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS OVER THE YEARS, IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED TO ME THAT AS MUCH AS \$880,000 MAY BE LEFT OVER AT THE TIME OF THE TAKEOVER OF THE BASE BY THE CANADIAN MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT IN JULY 1976.

3. "YOU HAVE INFORMED ME THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON HAS SAID THAT THE SURPLUS FUNDS WILL REVERT TO THE EMPLOYER, THAT IS, THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE. I WOULD LIKE TO ASCERTAIN WHAT PLANS, IF ANY, THE AIR FORCE HAS FOR DISCHARING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO ITS EMPLOYEES IN THIS RESPECT. NOT ONLY ARE THERE EMPLOYEES WHO ARE PRESENTLY COLLECTING, AND MUST CONTINUE TO COLLECT PENSIONS OUT OF THIS FUND, THERE MAY ALSO BE A GOOD NUMBER OF CASES WHERE AN EMPLOYEE HAS PAID INTO

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THE FUND FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, BUT IS NOT YET ELIGIBLE

TO RECEIVE A PENSION. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE RIGHTS
OF THESE PEOPLE BE PROTECTED.

4. "IT WOULD PROBABLY BE POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AT THE TIME OF WITHDRAWAL SOME SORT
OF ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY THE MINISTRY COULD TAKE OVER THE
REMAINING FUNDS AND SEE THAT THE PROGRAM CONTINUES TO BE
ADMINISTERED, EITHER THROUGH THE EXCELSIOR COMPANY OR
ANOTHER COMPANY WHICH WILL PROVIDE EQUAL OR MORE FAVOURABLE
TERMS.

5. "AS THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE HAS WITHDRAWN FROM
VARIOUS BASES IN THE PAST, I AM SURE THAT THE PROBLEM HAS
ARISEN BEFORE, AND THAT SOMEONE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT
PROBABLY KNOWS HOW TO HANDLE IT. IT IS THE FIRST TIME,
HOWEVER, THAT THE PROBLEM HAS ARISEN IN MY CONSTITUENCY,
AND I AM VITALLY CONCERNED THAT THE INTERESTS OF MY
CONSTITUENTS BE PROTECTED.

6. "I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD PASS THIS REQUEST
ALONG TO THE RELEVANT OFFICIALS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT
AND ASK THEM TO COME TO A DECISION ON THE MATTER AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE. MEANWHILE, I WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH THE
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT TO SEE THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF IT AS
WELL.

7. "PLEASE KEEP ME INFORMED ON ANY DEVELOPMENTS.

8. "THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE

/S/WILLIAM ROMPKEY, M.P.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING
DRAFT REPLY WHICH IT MIGHT FORWARD TO MR. ROMPKEY IN ANSWER
TO HIS QUERIES. EMBASSY HOPES THAT USAF CAN BE FORTHCOMING
AND HELPFUL IN ITS RESPONSE SINCE M.P. ROMPKEY HAS ACTED
RESPONSIBLY AND REASONABLY IN THIS MATTER AND IS
FRIENDLY TO THE EMBASSY. PORTER

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